



• INFO memo – August 8, 2003

City of Broken Arrow
P.O. Box 610
Broken Arrow, OK 74013
www.brokenarrowok.gov

Wayne Bishop, Communications Coordinator
Phone: 259-8277 Fax: 251-6642

Fall Isn't Here, but Start of School Is!

Summer may be far from over, but summer vacation comes to a halt Thursday, Aug. 14, for students in Broken Arrow and Union public schools.

One of the problems for schools each year in the opening few weeks is the change in driving habits for area motorists. Broken Arrow's Police Department will be implementing "Operation Safe Streets" in an effort to cut down on those problems.

A BAPD report shows that there is a dramatic increase in traffic once school begins, with most of that increase coming at about the same time periods – when students are going to and coming from school. Normally, the police report states, this leads to a substantial growth in traffic collisions. There is also a rise in the number of citations written, as many motorists have problems getting back in the habit of slowing down for posted school zones and obeying laws regarding the passing of school buses which are loading or unloading passengers.

"Operation Safe Streets" is designed to decrease the amount of losses suffered from crashes in the community by a proactive enforcement of the traffic laws. "During the first few weeks of school you will see a significant number of police officers working traffic enforcement around area schools," said Sergeant Ed Ferguson, head of the Traffic Specialist Unit. "Broken Arrow Police will be *very* proactive in enforcing our traffic laws for the next few weeks, in a coordinated effort to reduce traffic collisions."

That stepped up enforcement will begin Aug. 14, with particular attention to school zones and areas where buses serve neighborhoods. "There will be no grace period for motorists committing violations in school zones," Ferguson continued. "Our goal is to establish a safe environment for our children and motorists in Broken Arrow beginning the first day of school."

Ferguson points out that the BAPD efforts in this program are not limited to the adult motorists in the community. A video message is being produced to be played over Tiger TV, stressing the importance of safety for students.

Fines for speeding in school zones range from a minimum of \$140 to more than \$240.

New Schedule Begins at Pool

With the start of classes in Broken Arrow and Union schools Thursday, the Family Aquatic Center in Central Park will begin its shortened schedule for the remainder of the month.

The FAC will be open only Thursday and Friday (4 p.m. to 8 p.m.) and Saturday and Sunday (1 p.m. to 8 p.m.) during the final two weeks of August. The final day of the season will be Labor Day (Monday, Sept. 1, from 1 p.m. to 8 p.m.).

Chief Wuestewald Praises Officers

Broken Arrow Police Chief Todd Wuestewald has issued messages of congratulations to several of his officers for actions in the field and in the classroom.

For their work in arresting a suspect in a lewd molestation case, Detective Cpl. Buss Morrill and Detectives Scott Bross and Ian Buchanon were praised by their Chief. "You acted quickly and decisively to investigate the circumstances of this incident and immediately responded to the suspect's place of business to arrest him," said Wuestewald. "You removed a suspected sex offender from the street and took immediate action to protect a child. Well done!"

The Chief also had words of congratulations for Captains Brandon Berryhill, Rick Shea, Heath Arning and Sgt. Craig Zoller. They recently graduated from the University of Tulsa Police Executive Development and Leadership program. "I know this was a demanding course," said Wuestewald, "but you have distinguished yourselves by finishing with academic honors. Completion of this course continues your professional development as you prepare to lead our agency into the future. Administrators of the program informed me that all of you stood out as high achievers among representatives of many different agencies. We are all proud of you."

Police Unveil New Website

The Broken Arrow Police Department has linked a new website to the City's redesigned website, giving a new look and much more information to both.

The City's website (www.brokenarrowok.gov) includes a link from the home page to the police site. There is also a special section of the City's site devoted to public safety, including the PD and some of its programs. The police website was designed by Tim Hirsch. It includes detailed information on all of the department's operations.

There are links from the PD site to the City's site for information on the Animal Shelter and its Adopt-a-Pet program, as well as the list of registered sex

offenders, with a page on each that has a photo and address, as well as the offense for which they were convicted.

One of the more unusual sections of the BAPD site is a page devoted to the original artwork of Crime Scene Investigator Al Cross.

There is also information on how you can volunteer to assist in the Police Department, how to become involved in Neighborhood Alert programs, the Citizen's Police Academy and much more.